Akaya Akashiya Ayakashino

Of the Crimson, the Light and the Ayakashi

Mangaka: Nanao & HaccaWorks*

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CLUNK
空環駅
UTSUWA Station
CLUNK
CLUNK
THE TRAINS DON'T STOP AT UTSUWA STATION...
SWISH
GOOD MORNING.
SWISH
CLUNK
AH, GOOD MORNING.
WHAT ARE THE TRAINS LIKE THIS MORNING?
AS USUAL, THEY DON'T STOP HERE
NOT EVEN ONE.
I SEE. THAT'S STRANGE. THIS IS SUCH A WONDERFUL STATION.
I WONDER WHY ON EARTH THEY DON'T STOP...
IT'S AS IF
THEY DON'T SEE THERE'S A STATION HERE.

あかやしおかしのあやかし

Tale 3
Tougo

Art: Nanao
Story: Hacca Works

rustle

...THE SHADOW THAT CONCEALS THE TOWN IS TREMBLING.

I WONDER IF THAT THING AT THE FESTIVAL CAUSED IT.

rustle

"THE PACIFICATION CEREMONY". HMM...

IT SEEMS TO BE CARRIED OUT EVERY YEAR, BUT NOTHING HAS HAPPENED BEFORE.

UNTIL NOW, THAT IS.

BUT IT'S NOT AS IF *HE'LL* STAY ASLEEP FOREVER, IS IT?

THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE TOWN IS CHANGING TOO.
SOME HUMANS ARE PROBABLY BEGINNING TO NOTICE AS WELL.
HEX
CAW
FLAP
SEND OUR REGARDS TO SATO.
TELL HIM THERE HAVE BEEN TOO MANY SLOPPY "MEALS" LATELY AND IT FEELS UNPLEASANT.
YOU'RE MEANT TO DEAL WITH THE "AKUJIKI" SO PULL YOURSELVES TOGETHER.
...HMM.
...I HOPE HE WAKES UP SOON TOO.

rustle
DING
DONG
2-5
mutter mutter
TSUBAKI!
WE'RE HAVING ANOTHER STUDY GROUP TODAY. ARE YOU COMING?
MATH

AH...
SORRY, SUZUKI. I'M BUSY AGAIN TODAY...
SORRY FOR ASKING YOU ALL THE TIME.
IT'S OKAY
THANKS FOR THE NOTES.
I SEE.
Please pick up Hina-chan today I'll make dinner Dad
I DON'T MIND PICKING HER UP...
BUT THEY JUST MIGHT BE WAITING FOR ME AGAIN...
"Tsubaki"
Tsubaki"
"I FEEL AS IF I KNOW YOU SOMEHOW."
"I H... L A FEELING WE MET A LONG TIME AGO."

REALLY...
...WHAT'S THE MATTER TSUBAKI? ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT SOME-THING?
NO, NOT...
It's happening again...
WHY ARE YOU HERE...?!
!?
Heke
I WAS WAITING OUTSIDE, BUT I WANTED TO SEE WHAT A SCHOOL IS LIKE ON THE INSIDE... SO I CAME IN ☆
A student from another school?
OH? A LOT OF PEOPLE SEEM TO BE STARING?
murmur
He's really bold...
murmur
glance
glance
Why he wears a mask
Damn it
Damned
shock
(G)I
Ah
Ah

SENSEI, OVER HERE...
YOU!
ARE YOU A STUDENT FROM ANOTHER SCHOOL? HAVE YOU BEEN GIVEN PERMISSION TO COME IN?
UH OH.
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE, YUE.
AH, OKAY.
LET'S GO, TSUBAKI!
EH?
HUH?
grab
Ahh, Tsubaki
STEP
STEP
STEP
...HEY
SERIOUSLY WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON SINCE YESTERDAY?!
WHAT ON EARTH DO YOU WANT FROM ME?
I TOLD YOU YESTERDAY, DIDN'T I?

I WANT TO BE FRIENDS WITH YOU.
WHY?

WHY DOES HE SEEM SO SIMILAR TO THAT PERSON?

Slap
TSUBAKI?
ARE YOU ANGRY?
.....
...I WOULD HAVE CALLED THE POLICE IF YOU DIDN'T LOOK THE WAY YOU DO.
HUH?
NOTHING.
I HAVE SOMEWHERE TO BE.
EH~
BUT I WENT TO THE TROUBLE OF WAKING UP EARLY AND COMING HERE~
THAT'S RIGHT! IT'S A MIRACLE THAT THIS SLEEPYHEAD MANAGED TO WAKE UP SO EARLY...
SIGH!
I'VE BEEN WONDERING ABOUT THIS... WHY IS THAT DOG TALKING?
AHAHA...
Ventriloquism?
I'M NOT A DOG, I'M KUROGI-TSUNE-SAMA!
DEFENSIVE
WHAT'S UP WITH HIM?
WHAT'S HE DOING?
murmur
murmur

KYOOSH
HUH...
AH, IT'S AKIYO-SHI
AMAZING... HE'S LIKE A SINGLE TREE STOPPING THE FLOW OF A RIVER...
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, FOX MASK! WHAT HAVE YOU GOT PLANNED TODAY?!
BAM
HUH-
AKIYOSHI IS INTERESTING.
...WHAT IS HE THINKING?
You! Get away from there! You're preventing everyone from leaving!
murmur
murmur
murmur
That's the guy from the second year
What's he doing?
HE NOTICED
AH.

RUSH
RUSH
RUSH
...I'VE GOT TO PICK UP MY LITTLE SISTER, SO I DON'T HAVE TIME TO MESS AROUND WITH YOU GUYS.
THAT'S NO GOOD, TSUBAKI SIGHING WILL MAKE YOUR HAPPINESS ESCAPE.
HMM?
Jeez~
...HAH...
murmur
murmur
WHOA...
SHIVER
...WHY DO YOU KNOW THAT?
IS IT ALRIGHT TO BE GOING EARLIER THAN USUAL?
AT SAGANO KINDERGARTEN, RIGHT?
LITTLE SISTER?
NEVER MIND ABOUT AKIYOSHI BEING A STALKER. LET'S ALL GO TO PICK UP TSUBAKI'S LITTLE SISTER~
HMM? WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU THREE?
sigh
WHY ARE THINGS TURNING OUT THIS WAY...?

Pull
Pull
HURRY UP, T.SUBAKI!
WAIT A...
HEY!
!
AH.
YOUR HAPPINESS ESCAPED AGAIN.
I can't believe that kid made fun instead of me
Hmph.
Hey!
Let's go!
OH.
IT'S UNUSUAL FOR YOU TO BRING FRIENDS WITH YOU, TOUGO-KUN.
Hello!
THANKS FOR EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE, PRINCIPAL.
...THEY'RE NOT MY FRIENDS.
PRINCIPAL
BIG BROTHER!
AH

AH.
SORRY I KEPT YOU WAITING, HINA.
SORRY SORRY.
HEHEHE~ YES, I'VE BEEN WAITING SO LONG!
PAT
KYAA!
TSUBAKI IS SMILING...
Ohhh
WHO ARE YOU? BIG BROTHER'S FRIEND?
YES.
...I THINK IT WOULD BE NICE IF WE WERE.
he he he
Hello~
...HELLO.
BOW

...THAT'S A NEW WORD.
"FORGETFUL BOO-BOO"?
I'M NOT A FORGETFUL BOO-BOO!
YOU'RE SUCH A FORGETFUL BOO-BOO, HINA!
AH! I FORGOT IT!
TODAY'S THE DAY YOU BRING IT HOME TO BE WASHED
OH? WHERE'S YOUR GYM UNIFORM, HINA?
LET'S GO AND GET IT, HINA.
OKAY!
STEP
STEP
...THEY REALLY ARE A CLOSE PAIR OF SIBLINGS.
hehe
HINA-CHAN IS CUTE, ISN'T SHE~?
TOUGO-KUN AND HINA-CHAN BOTH SUPPORT EACH OTHER.
THEY'RE GOOD KIDS.
THAT'S RIGHT.
TSUBAKI PROBABLY HAS A HARD TIME BECAUSE HIS FATHER IS A SINGLE PARENT. I THINK IT'S AMAZING.
nod
HOW DO YOU KNOW SO MUCH, AKIYOSHI...?

UHHH...
THERE IT IS!
...WHAT ARE YOU DOING OVER THERE?
...I'M WAITING.
...HMM.
squeeze
DID YOU FIND IT, HINA?
YES!

tap
tap
SORRY I KEPT YOU WAITING~
NO PROB-LEM.
...I DIDN'T TELL YOU TO WAIT THOUGH.
I was talk-ing to you too.
TSUBAKI'S RIGHT, FOX MASK.
...BYE BYE...
...SEE YOU LATER. BYE BYE.

LET'S WALK PART OF THE WAY TOGETHER.
WELL?
HOW LONG ARE YOU GUYS GOING TO KEEP FOLLOWING ME?
OKAY!
OH, WELL. LET'S GO HOME, HINA.

GOODBYE. SEE YOU TOMORROW, HINA-CHAN.
GOODBYE, PRINCIPAL~
WHAT'S THE MATTER, TSUBAKI? YOU LOOK PRETTY TIRED.
AH, I SEE.
...HAH.

...I'VE BEEN WAITING.

YUE-KUN AND THE GUY WITH THE MASK WERE FUN!
THEY SAID THEY'D COME AGAIN TOMORROW~
...AT THIS RATE, THEY MIGHT ACTUALLY COME...
I'm fed up...
See you tomorrow
Tsu haku
COME AND TAKE A BATH, HINA-CHAN~
AH, DAD'S CALLING YOU. GO ON, HINA.
I DON'T CARE!
Hmph
I'M HOME~
...I'M HOME.
TSUBAK
hmph
I WAITED AT HOME BECAUSE DAD SAID HE'D BUY ME ONE~
BUT I WANTED ONE LIKE YOURS.
step step
heh
BECAUSE DAD DROPPED MY PINWHEEL!
THE ONE FROM THE FESTIVAL? THAT HAPPENED THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY JUST FORGIVE HIM ALREADY.
HMPH~
...IF YOU WANT ONE SO MUCH, I'LL GIVE YOU MINE.

HERE...
I WANTED TO HAVE MY VERY OWN ONE!
I DON'T WANT IT~
HMPH
SOMEONE GAVE YOU THAT ONE A LONG TIME AGO, RIGHT?
!
DAD SAID "A SPECIAL PERSON GAVE IT TO HIM, SO IT'S IMPORTANT TO HIM".
HUH?
NOTHING.
Come on. STOP SULKING AND GO TAKE A BATH WITH DAD.
RUB
RUB
OKAY.
RATTLE
THAT PERSON'S NOT SPECIAL...
mumble

TAP
TAP
TAP
THE CRIMSON THE LIGHT AND THE AYAKASHI...
I'M GOING TO TAKE A BATH!
HUH...
STEP
BIG BROTHER.
DID YOU FIND WHAT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR?
HMM?
WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR?
THE SILHOUETTE ON THE PATH AT TWILIGHT...
THE HAZY SCENT OF THE WILL-O-THE-WISP FLOWER...
rustle
I WASN'T...
PLANNING TO SEARCH FOR IT ANYMORE.
BUT...

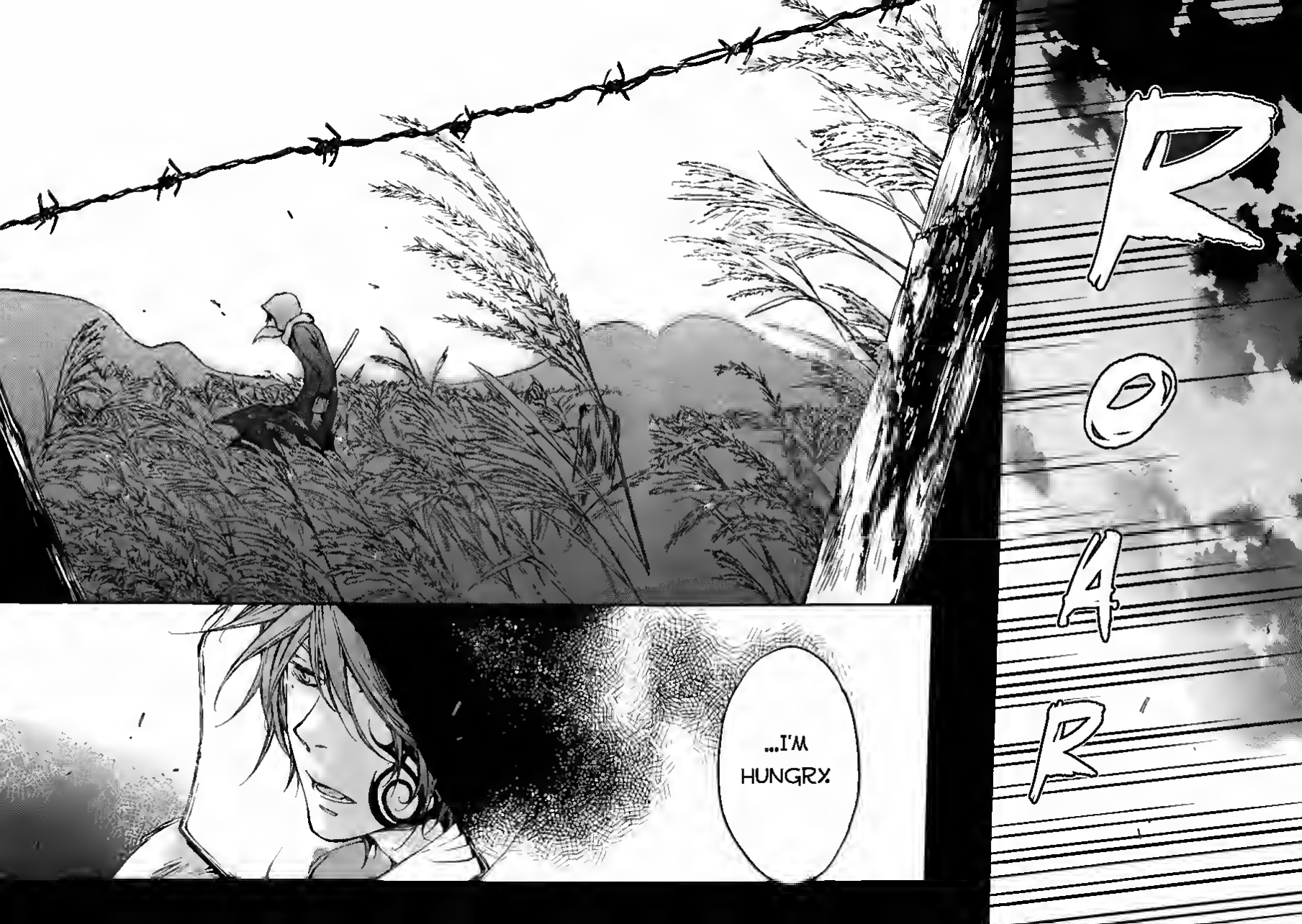
clatter
I'M HOME.
WEL-COME HOME.
...I DON'T APPROVE OF YOU BEING OUT THIS LATE.
Uh.
OH, YOU'RE HOME, DAD...
...I JUST HAPPENED TO COME HOME LATE TODAY.
step
"TODAY"? THIS HAP-PENED THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY TOO.
EVEN THOUGH I WARNED YOU AGAIN AND AGAIN ABOUT HOW DANGER-OUS THAT DAY IS YOU WENT OUT ALONE...
WELL...
YOU WEREN'T TAKING PART IN THE "PACIFI-CATION CER-EMONY", SO WHAT WERE YOU DOING?
DON'T TELL ME YOU WENT NEAR THAT PLACE...
I DIDN'T!
EVEN I KNOW HOW DANGEROUS THAT SILVER GRASS FIELD IS!

...BUT I CAN'T STAY LOCKED UP IN HERE.
IF I LISTENED TO EVERYTHING YOU SAID, I'D NEVER LEAVE THIS HOUSE.
AKIYO-SHI!
YOU MUST OBEY THE RULES...
SLAM
I KNOW!
.....
WILL I REALLY BE SAFE IF I STAY AWAY FROM THERE?
HOW IS STAYING AT HOME AND PRAYING GOING TO CHANGE ANYTHING?
O

...I WON'T ACCEPT IT.
HOW IS YUE DOING?
THE "PREPARATIONS" THEMSELVES SEEM TO BE GOING WELL.
BUT HE SEEMS TO BE A LITTLE WEAK.
Sorry, sorry!
Hey, Yue!
Don't fall asleep!
Mm Mm
HE'S ALWAYS BEEN FRAIL THOUGH...
...I SEE.
I CAN'T BE SURE YET...
HE COULD JUST BE FEELING FATIGUED BECAUSE HE WENT DOWN TO THE TOWN FOR THE FIRST TIME, OR THERE COULD BE ANOTHER REASON...

THERE ARE ALSO SIGNS THAT "HE" WILL BE ABLE TO RETURN.
I INCREASED THE NUMBER OF FAMILIARS AND SENT THEM TO INVESTIGATE. BUT I CANNOT SEE WHY THE "AKUJIKI" HAVE BEEN INCREASING.
THE TOWN SEEMS TO BE CHANGING TOO.
...SATO...
...I DON'T THINK THAT'S WHAT HE WOULD WANT
...HIS AWAKENING IS EQUIVALENT TO DESTRUCTION FOR US.
...YOU'RE RIGHT.

ALL WE CAN DO IS WATCH.
SHIN...


...I'M HUNGRY.
ROAR

UMM...
"THE PRINCIPAL ISN'T HERE"...?
SIGN: SUGANO KINDERGARTEN
WAIT A MINUTE, I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING...
WELL, YOU SEE...
THERE HASN'T BEEN A PRINCIPAL HERE SINCE THE TIME YOU ATTENDED, TOUGO-KUN.
BUT WE TALKED TO HIM YESTERDAY...
EH...?
...THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.
...WHAT'S THE MATTER, KUROGI-TSUNE?
.....
HE WAS SOMEONE'S "MEAL".
The kindergarten principal's disappearance! A "meal" has already been taken around Tsubaki and the others?!
To be continued
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